

5, 1895. Zola, however, was now busy classifying all the J materials he had brought from Eorne and revolving in his mind the tremendous task which lay before him. Thus, once again, he gave comparatively little attention to the proceedings against Dreyfus. Moreover there was nothing in the newspapers to indicate any probability of a miscarriage of justice. Like everybody else, — except the members of the Dreyfus family, whom he did not know, — Zola assumed that the convicted officer was guilty, and thereupon dismissed the matter from his mind.

Writing to Yizetelly on January 11, he said that he hoped to make "Eorne" a work of European interest, and if possible he should include in it some account of the wonderful progress which the Catholic Church claimed to be effecting in Great Britain and the United States of America. He hoped the book would be shorter than "Lourdes," and he intended to keep it "absolutely chaste, though very *passionne*, for while Abbd Froment would be the central figure, a very tragic *drameyassionnel* would be unfolded beside him."¹

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However, the historic, descriptive, and controversial parts of the work expanded in Zola's hands, and far from "Rome" proving shorter than "Lourdes," it exceeded that book in length by a hundred and fifty pages. The *drame passionnel* which was to have "been so prominent a feature," became nearly lost among the surrounding matter, so that by the time the work was finished little suggested that it was intended to be a novel. At the same time it was certainly one of the books on which Zola expended most time and study. He had begun to examine Ms subject in the summer of 1894,

and his proofs were not finally passed for press till the end of February, 1896. It may be said that he gave the whole